

BARNARD CASTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1943.

J.G.Faley, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

Assistant School Medical Officer.

45, Galgate,

Barnard Castle.

July, 1944.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1943.

The continuation of the war prevents the carrying out of any progressive measures for the improvement of sanitary conditions in the area. The formation of a Post War Planning Committee however, indicates that the Council is looking ahead to the time when plans, previously laid, can be put into action. We are all hoping that that time is not too far distant.

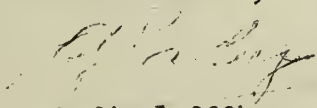
Much requires to be done in the improvement of housing, water supplies and sewerage. As has been emphasised by one of my predecessors in his report to you, the standard of many houses in the area falls far below that laid down by the Housing Acts. I have included in my report a short summary of a preliminary survey of the present housing conditions which was made by the Sanitary Inspector and myself. There is a considerable amount of overcrowding in some districts but this cannot be accurately measured until more settled conditions prevail.

There was a seasonal rise in the number of cases of measles during the year. Notifications of cases of tuberculosis show a marked increase. This corresponds with an increase in incidence throughout the country, and may be due, in part, to war conditions.

I am again indebted to members of the Council for support in matters relating to my department.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,


Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS: Registrar General's Figures for 1943.Comparative Table of Birth Rates.

<u>T</u>		
<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>		
<u>This Area.</u>	<u>Birth Rate.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u> <u>Birth Rate.</u>
Boys 128)	14.9 per	15.8 per
Girls 122)	thousand.	thousand.

STILL BIRTHS.

<u>This Area.</u>	<u>Birth Rate.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u> <u>Birth Rate.</u>
Boys 5)	0.66 per	0.51 per
Girls 6)	thousand.	thousand.

Comparative Table of Death Rates.

<u>This Area.</u>	<u>England & Wales.</u>
Death of Infants) under one year) 10	Not given.
Infant Mortality Rate - 40	49

Number of Deaths.

<u>This Area.</u>	<u>England & Wales.</u>
Males 113)	Not given.
Females 112)	
Death Rate 13.5 per thousand.	12.1 per thousand.

Causes of Death.

Heart Disease	51	Other Digestive	
Intracranial Vascular		Diseases	2
~~Leins~~ <i>Leins</i> <i>Leions</i>	32	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	5
Other Circulatory Diseases	6	Other forms of	
Cancer	25	Tuberculosis	2
Pneumonia	14	Influenza	5
Bronchitis	11	Diabetes	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	4	Nephritis	3
Ulcer of Stomach or		Other Material Causes	1
Duodenum	3	Premature Birth & Other	
Road Accident	5	Causes	3
Other Violent Causes	8	All Other Causes	44

TOTAL - 225

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	<u>1941.</u>	<u>1942.</u>	<u>1943.</u>
Scarlet Fever	12	15	35
Diphtheria	21	17	13
Measles	143	121	343
Whooping Cough	62	3	42
Pneumonia	10	11	14
Erysipelas	2	5	9
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	Nil	3	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	3
Enteric Fever	1	Nil	Nil

There was a further decrease in the number of cases of diphtheria notified during the year. Of the 13 cases notified 5 were children under the age of 15 years; and of these, one was under the age of 5 years.

The following table shows the fall in the incidence of the disease during the past three years.

<u>Total Number of Cases</u> <u>Notified (Civilian)</u>	<u>1941.</u>	<u>1942.</u>	<u>1943.</u>
	21	17	13
Number of Cases in Children under 5 years.	10	8	5
Number of Cases under 15 years.	3	2	1

TUBERCULOSIS. During the year 25 cases were notified.

	<u>Pulmonary.</u>	<u>Non-pulmonary.</u>
<u>Males</u>	7	4
<u>Females</u>	7	7

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEME.

The response to immunisation in the area continues to be satisfactory. During the year there was a noteworthy increase in the number of children in the younger age group, who were immunised.

In April, arrangements were made for providing facilities for immunisation at the Infant Welfare Clinic, held at fortnightly intervals in the Vicarage, Barnard Castle. The Medical Officer of Health attends for this purpose from 9.30 a.m. until 10 a.m.

Dr. S. E. H. Anderson of Cockfield, agreed to attend at the Welfare Centre held in Cockfield, for the purpose of immunisation, when asked to do so before 11 a.m.

<u>Diphtheria Prophylaxis.</u>	<u>Return for the year.</u>	<u>Age under</u> <u>5 years.</u>	<u>Age Over</u> <u>5 years.</u>
Number of children resident in the area) who received a full course of immunisation) during the year.		276	388
Estimated percentage of child population) who received a full course of immunisation) during the year.		57%	86%

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HOUSING. Statement as to the present position in regard to houses situated in the Authorities area and which are scheduled as Clearance Areas:

<u>Total Number of Houses in the area confirmed in order.</u>	<u>Number of Houses Derelict or Demolished.</u>	<u>Number of Houses still Occupied.</u>
48	24	24

The following is a summary of results of a recent preliminary survey of the housing conditions in the area. Inspections were made of each house but detailed defect sheets have not been completed in all cases, nor was the question of overcrowding gone into since it is felt that, owing to changes due to wartime conditions, an accurate assessment of the conditions for post-war purposes cannot be made.

<u>Number of Houses unfit and beyond repair at reasonable expense - including Sect. 11 (Individual Houses) & Sect. 23 (Clearance Areas) Housing Act 1936.</u>	<u>Number of Houses for re- conditioning under the Housing (Rural Worker's Act).</u>
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PARISH

Staindrop	38	Nil
Everwood	97	9
Etherley	26	Nil
Woodland	21	Nil
Bolam	2	Nil
New Raby	11	Nil
Lynesack & Softley	23	8
Cockfield	38	Nil
Middleton	10	31
Total	<u>266</u>	Total <u>48</u>

WATER SUPPLIES. Supplies from the Tees Valley Water Board and the Durham County Water Board were satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity. These undertakings supply the greater portions of the southern and northern parts of the district. Of the Council's undertakings, comprising supplies to the areas of Cockfield, Lynesack and Woodland, Upper Teesdale, Wackerfield, Middleton and Stainton, owing to increase in population and other factors, some of these supplies ran low during the year. Improvement to these water supplies are urgently needed, and in addition, entirely new supplies are required at Eggleston, Bolam and Bildershaw.

Statement as to the Number of Dwelling Houses in the Area Supplied with a Piped Water-Supply.

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|----|--|-------|
| A. | Total number of houses in the Area. | 5,267 |
| B. | (i) Number of houses having a piped water supply under pressure into or onto the house. | 3,754 |
| | (ii) Number of houses not having a supply as in (i) but which have their ventillage within 100 yards of a water main available for supply. | 73 |

I am indebted to the Surveyor, Mr. H. A. Smith for the above information.

MILK PRODUCTION. There are over 800 dairy farms registered in the district for producing milk or butter. There are 78 producers in the area holding designated licences of which 22 are producing T.T. milk and 56 producing accredited milk.

Visits of inspection under the Milk and Dairies orders were made by the Sanitary Inspector's department and samples were taken in a number of cases.

TREATMENT OF SCABIES. (Scabies Order 1941)

During the year 70 persons resident in the Rural District were treated for scabies at the Bishop Auckland Centre in North Bondgate.

Distribution of cases. Evenwood, 21 cases, involving 11 families; Cockfield, 14 cases, involving 6 families; Toft Hill, 5 cases, involving 2 families. The remaining cases came from Hamsterley, Bildershaw, Copley, Woodland and Ramshaw.

Thirtyfive persons resident in the Rural District were treated at the Barnard Castle Cleansing Station, Dunelm Square, involving a total of 73 treatments.

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GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

The following figures of the number of persons billeted or housed by the Local Authority during the year have been kindly supplied by the Chief Billeting Officer:-

	<u>At 1st January</u> <u>1943.</u>	<u>At 31st December</u> <u>1943.</u>
Teachers	3	None
Helpers.	6	3
Mothers	28	34
Accompanied Children	43	38
Unaccompanied Children	149	91
	<u>229</u>	<u>166</u>
Housed at Evenwood	15	10

EMERGENCY HOSTEL AND SICK BAY
HEADLAM HALL.

During the year 6 unaccompanied evacuee children, comprising 2 boys and 4 girls, were admitted to the hostel and sick-bay.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

Throughout the year conditions remained quiet in the area, and no incidents were recorded.

During the year, amalgamation of the First Aid and Rescue parties took place, the combined services coming under the supervision of the County Surveyor's Department.

The Mobile Unit and Ambulances Services remain under the supervision of the County Health Department.

INFANT WELFARE & SCHOOL CLINICS.

As in previous years, infant welfare clinics were held at monthly intervals in Cockfield, Butterknowle, Staindrop and Middleton-in-Teesdale. Fortnightly clinics were also held in Barnard Castle. Weekly temporary school clinics were also held in Butterknowle Council School and Everwood Church of England School. These clinics are administered by the County Council.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is a statement of the number and nature of inspections made during the year by the Sanitary Inspectors' department:-

<u>Classification.</u>	<u>Number of Visits.</u>	<u>Classification.</u>	<u>Number of Visits.</u>
Nuisances	142	Sanitary Accommodation	62
Scavenging	520	Verminous Premises	3
Water Supply	35	Infectious Diseases	35
Food & Drugs	20	Evacuation	2
Housing	161	A.R.P.,	51
Drainage	43	Milk & Dairies	129
Rats & Mice	86	Slaughter of Animals	1
Offensive Trades	1	Miscellaneous	66

TOTAL: 1,357

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED.

<u>Public Health Acts:</u>	<u>Number of informal written Notices by Inspector.</u>	<u>Number of Formal Notices by Order of Authority.</u>	<u>Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.</u>
(Foul			
Dwelling Houses { condition	3	-	3
& Schools { Structural defects	182	4	161
{ Overcrowding	-	-	-
Lodging Houses	-	-	-
Dairies & Milk Shops	17	-	12
Cowsheds	60	-	17
Bakehouses	-	-	-
Slaughter Houses	2	-	2
Ash-pits & Privies	181	-	101
Deposits of Refuse & Manure	7	-	7
Water-Closets	19	-	11
Defective Yard Paving	7	-	7
House { Defective Traps	-	-	-
Drainage { No disconnection	-	-	-
{ from Sewers			
{ Other Faults	31	3	28
Water Supply	11	1	9
Pgsties	3	-	3
Animals Improperly kept	5	-	4
Offensive Trades	-	-	-
Smoke Nuisances	1	-	1
Other Nuisances	26	3	18
Dangerous Buildings	-	24	-
Dairymen (Non-Registration)	-	2	-

Water Food & Drugs.:

Samples of Water taken for Analysis	1
Samples of Food & Drugs taken for Analysis	4

Precautions against Infectious Diseases:

Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed.	48
Houses disinfected after Infectious Diseases.	48

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General:

Ash Privies converted into Water-Closets.	4
Ash-Closets converted into Water-Closets.	3
Total Number of Water-closets in District.	1,271
Total Number of Ash-Closets in District.	2,693
Total Number of Ash-pit Privies in District.	1,050

Mr. E. Scott was appointed temporary Assistant Sanitary Inspector as from July 5th 1943.

A certain proportion of the time of the Chief Sanitary Inspector was occupied by additional duties connected with the war.
